(c) In order to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Constitution (73rd Amendment Act) and Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996), a separate Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been created.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Revenue from Handicrafts exports

1408. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revenue from handicrafts exports in the next five years is likely to be around Rs. 20,000 crore;

(b) the details of exports during the last three years; and

(c) the steps proposed to remove constraints related to infrastructures?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the current trend of growth in export of handicrafts, it is likely to achieve exports of around Rs. 20,000 crores in the next five years.

(b) The details of handicrafts exports including handknotted carpet registered during the last three years is as under:—

Years	Exports (Rs. in crores)
2001-02	9205.63
2002-03	10933.67
2003-04	12765.18

(c) Steps proposed to remove constraints related to infrastructure

include: setting up of Indian Exposition Mart at Greater Noida, a state of art Technology and Design Centre for Photo and Picture framing at Saharanpur and Jodhpur, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in greater Noida, permanent showroom in Dallas Mart, USA, Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) at Bhadohi and Satellite centres of IICT at Jaipur & Srinagar.

NTC mills

†1409. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mills of National Textiles Corporation that are opening in the country;

(b) the number of mills making profits; and

(c) the number of sick mills and the measures taken or being taken to make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) There are 54 mills now operating under NTC.

(b) No mill is making profit as on date.

(c) BIFR/Govt. have approved a Rehabilitation Schemes for the 9 NTC companies at a total cost of Rs. 3918.84 crores consisting closure of 66 unviable mills and revival of 53 mills. The schemes are to be largely funded through sale of surplus lands.

Expert Committee on technical textiles

1410. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert committee on technical textiles has submitted its report to Central Government on 30th August, 2004.

(b) whether this Committee was set up by Government 1-1/2 years ago;

(c) what are other recommendations made by the expert Committee;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.